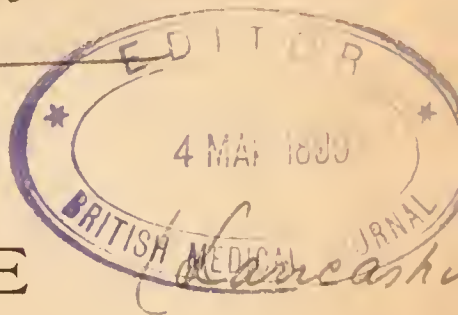


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RADCLIFFE

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman - JAMES CUNLIFFE, Esq., J.P.



SIXTEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE DISTRICT,

PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL


JANUARY 25th, 1899,

BY

WILLIAM SELLERS, Junr.,

M.D. (Lond.), D.P.H., Vict.

Medical Officer of Health.



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RADCLIFFE, JANUARY, 1899.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my sixteenth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the District.

During the year for the purpose of my Monthly Reports I have been estimating the population at 26,500, but from the subjoined statement in the Year-book of the District Council, this appears too high and therefore for this Report I have taken the population as being 26,000.

Ward.	Population.	No. of Houses.
Black Lane.....	6020	1384
Radcliffe Hall.....	6050	1210
Radcliffe Bridge.....	7740	1548
Stand Lane.....	5080	1016
	<u>25790</u>	<u>5158</u>

Appended are Tables giving statistics of the number of Births and Deaths in each Ward, and I have also added a Table showing the number and nature of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified between each Meeting of the Health Committee.

Births were as follows :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Black Lane Ward	91	115	206
Radcliffe Hall Ward ...	81	87	168
Radcliffe Bridge Ward	122	111	233
Stand Lane Ward	62	60	122
Total.....	<u>356</u>	<u>373</u>	<u>729</u>

These figures give a Birth-rate of 28 per 1000, a rate which has not varied materially since the year 1894, when it rose from 31 per 1000.

Deaths. The number of deaths was 428 ; distributed as follows :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Black Lane Ward.....	47	60	107
Radcliffe Hall Ward...	54	53	107
Radcliffe Bridge Ward	79	60	139
Stand Lane Ward.....	34	41	75
	<u>214</u>	<u>214</u>	<u>428</u>

This Mortality is equivalent to a Death-rate of 16·4 per 1000, which is lower than the rate for 1897 (17 per 1000) and almost as low as in 1894 when it was only 16 per 1000.

Death Rates per 1000 during the last five years :—

1894	1895	1895	1897	1898
<u>16</u>	<u>19·4</u>	<u>18·6</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>16·4</u>

A comparison of the number of deaths in each Ward as compared with the population shews that there is no excessive mortality in any one Ward as compared with the others.

Infantile Mortality. The deaths of children under five years of age numbered 183, and of these 125 were under the age of one year. Infantile Mortality is usually measured in terms of the number of deaths under one year per 1000 births. Measured in this way we get the following results :—

1895	1896	1897	1898
<u>222</u>	<u>196</u>	<u>182</u>	<u>171</u>

It will be noticed that the rates for the last three years, although still very high, are much better than the rate for 1895.

Natural Increase. The Natural Increase for the year is 301.

Zymotic Diseases have caused deaths as follows :—

Scarlet Fever.....	7
Diphtheria	1
Enteric Fever	5
Measles	2
Diarrhœa	50
Small-pox.....	0
Typhus Fever	0
	—
	<u>65</u>

The total number of deaths from Zymotic Diseases is greater than

for many years past, but it will be noticed that the excess is entirely due to the severe epidemic of Diarrhœa which prevailed in the late Summer and Autumn, and that the death-rate from the other Zymotic Diseases has been very low. The Zymotic Death-rate for the year in consequence of this epidemic reaches the figure of 2·5 per 1000 as compared with the following Table for past years :—

1894	1895	1896	1897	1898
<u>·9</u>	<u>3·2</u>	<u>3·2</u>	<u>3·1</u>	<u>2·5</u>

Small-pox. During the year no case of Small-pox has been notified, and it is to be earnestly hoped that the labours of the Conjoint Hospital Board may have reached a satisfactory termination before an Epidemic of this Disease, which in view of crowds of “conscientious objectors” may safely be predicted, comes upon us.

Before proceeding to discuss the other Infections Diseases I append a Table shewing the cases of each Disease notified in the different Wards during the year :—

	Radeliffe		Radeliffe	
	Black Lane.	Hall.	Bridge.	Stand Lane.
Enteric Fever.....	14	10	3	6
Continued Fever ...	...	1	5	...
Diphtheria	1	3	1	5
Erysipilas	6	4	6	2
Membranous Croup..	1	2	2	1
Pnerperal Fever.....	1	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever.....	1	13	8	17
	<u>24</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>31</u>

Scarlet Fever. Of this Disease 39 cases were notified, all about the beginning of the year, and, although the Disease did not become widely Epidemic, such cases as did occur were of a very virulent type, to such an extent, in fact that out of the 39 cases notified no fewer than 7 proved fatal, a mortality equal to 17·9 per cent. Scarlet Fever had been widely Epidemic in 1895, when 486 cases were notified, and in 1896 (346 notified), but the number had fallen to 63 notifications in 1897. I

and of opinion that the provision of Hospital accommodation together with the other appliances for the effectual disinfection of all infected clothing, bedding, &c., will do much to prevent a future Epidemic proving so disastrous to the community.

Diphtheria. Of this Disease ten cases were notified with one death. In no case could we trace the infection to any particular School or Milk supply.

Membranous Croup. Of this Disease six cases were notified with four deaths, true Membranous Croup, which may be regarded as probably Diphtheria of the wind pipe, being a remarkably fatal Disease.

Whooping Cough. No death has been registered from this Disease during 1897 and 1898.

Typhoid and Continued Fevers. 39 cases of these Diseases were notified with five deaths, equal to a mortality of 12·8 per cent. as compared with 29 cases, and three deaths in 1897, and 50 cases with ten deaths in 1896. In all these cases careful enquiry was made into the condition of the water and milk supplies, but in no case could I satisfy myself that either was to blame. I may add that, although I am not able to offer any strong proof, my observations have led me for many years to associate the prevalence of Typhoid Fever with the system of Midden, Privies, and Ashpits, and the pollution of the atmosphere by emanations from the contents thereof; and I can imagine no sanitary measure which would prove so beneficial to the public of Radcliffe as the general adoption through the district of some form of water-carriage system, by means of which all excrementitious products would be at once carried away from the vicinity of dwellings before anytime for decomposition had been allowed. No doubt such an alteration would be very costly, but it would I believe be justified by the result.

Diarrhœa. During the late Summer and Autumn Diarrhœa was prevalent in an unusually severe form and caused no fewer than 50 deaths as compared with 36 deaths in 1897. Of these no fewer than 43 were under five years of age. As I have before pointed out Summer Diarrhœa is associated with a long continuance of warm weather raising the earth-temperature beyond a certain limit, but in addition it is difficult to keep foods quite good and more especially foods like milk,

which forms the chief diet of those who suffer so severely from this form of Diarrhœa, and which in hot weather so soon becomes sour. During the prevalence of this Epidemic, handbills were distributed pointing out the chief precautions to be taken and the necessity of boiling all Milk as soon as received.

Erysipilas. Of this Disease 18 cases were notified, but no deaths occurred, and as stated in my Report last year, I am of opinion that the notification of this Disease might be omitted without any injury to the public.

Measles Only two deaths have occurred from Measles during 1898, as compared with 40 in 1897.

Phthisis caused 22 deaths, equal to a rate of $\cdot 8$ per 1000.

Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy have caused 85 deaths, a rate $3\cdot 2$ per 1000.

Heart Disease caused 33 deaths.

Injuries caused five deaths as compared with 14 in 1897.

Water Supply During the year numerous complaints have been made of the dirty condition of the water supplied by the Bury Corporation and numerous samples of such dirty water have been shewn to your Inspector and myself. I have in many previous reports called your attention to the unsatisfactory condition of the water supply, but as there appears to be no power to compel the Bury Corporation to filter their water before distribution, I am unable to suggest any remedy.

I may add that during the year some discussion has taken place at the meetings of your Committee as a result of which I am hopeful that the inhabitants of the district of Starling may be able to get a supply of pure water instead of the dangerous surface-well water which most of them have no alternative but to drink at present.

Milk Supply. Numerous samples have been taken during the year and in two cases prosecutions have been undertaken by the County Police Authority. In view of the increasing attention which is being paid to the subject of Tuberculosis and to the nature and extent of the Infectivity of Consumption, and in view of the dangers from the con-

sumption of Tuberculous Milk, I trust your Committee will take an early opportunity of adopting the Dairies and Milkshops Order of 1885, and of drawing up Regulations for the efficient carrying out of this Order.

Cemetery. The question of a Cemetery is still engaging the attention of your Council, and this question will soon become urgent.

Housing of the Working Classes Act. No action has been taken under this Act during the past year.

Sanitary Inspector's Report. For the rest of the statistical information in my report I am indebted to Mr. Pearson, and the Assistant Inspector Mr. Smith, viz:—List of Nuisances abated during the year.

Gully Traps affixed.....	358
New Drains laid	35
Drains cleaned and repaired	240
New Ashpits and Privies	60
Ashpits covered	52
„ Puddled or Concreted	25
„ Repaired	121
Steam turned into Sewers from Mills	4
Smoke observations	124
Houses Disinfected	7
Nuisances from short waste pipes	82
Other Nuisances abated and not classified.....	66
Workshops periodically inspected	91
Lodging-House periodically inspected	1
Bake-Houses inspected	20
Slaughter-Houses inspected	19
Dairies and Cowsheds.....	33
Offensive Trades	5
Overcrowded Travelling Vans	5
Overcrowding in Dwelling-Houses.....	4

The Workshops, Slaughter - Houses, Bake - Houses, Offensive Trades and the Common Lodging-House have all been carried on in compliance with the requirements of the Public Health Act.

The Market has been regularly inspected, but no unsound meat has been detected.

Numerous samples of milk have been analysed, and in two cases successful prosecutions for watering have been conducted by the Police Authorities.

Numerous **Smoke Observations** have been made, and proceedings have been taken both by your Council, and also independently by Mrs. Hopwood, for the abatement of the nuisance so caused.

64 Canal Boats have been inspected, but there have been no cases of sickness thereon.

Mr. Pearson concludes his report by saying "There have been a number of Sanitary Improvements carried out at the Farms, but there are some which would do with more light and better ventilation."

In conclusion, I desire to thank the Health Committee for the courtesy shewn to me at all times in the performance of my duties.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

1898.	Enteric Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Croup.	Erysipelas.	Continued Fever.
January 1st to 21st	2	...	2	...	...	...	...
January 21st to February 24th.....	...	2	9	...	...	...	2
February 24th to March 22nd	2	...	8	1	...	1	...
March 22nd to April 21st	2	...	3	.	1	...	...
April 21st to May 22nd.....	2	...	7	...	...	...	...
May 22nd to June 22nd.....	...	...	2	2	1	1	...
June 22nd to July 22nd.....	1	...	1	5	2	...	...
July 22nd to August 22nd.....	...	...	3	...	...	1	...
August 22nd to September 22nd ...	7	...	3	...	...	1	...
September 22nd to October 22nd ..	7	...	...	2	1	5	1
October 22nd to November 22nd ...	3	...	...	...	...	2	1
November 22nd to December 30th...	7	...	1	...	1	6	2
TOTALS.....	33	2	39	10	6	17	6



LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

(A) Table of Deaths during the year 1898, in the Urban Sanitary District of Radcliffe, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics.	Mortality from all causes at subjoined ages.							Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing deaths of Children under five years of age.															
	(b) At all Ages	(c) Under 1 year	(d) 1 and under 5	(e) 5 and under 15	(f) 15 and under 25	(g) 25 and under 65	(h) 65 and upwards	1		2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL.	
(a)								Scarlatina.		Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Enteric or Typhoid.		Fever	Measles.	Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.		All other Diseases.
BLACK LANE WARD.	107	27	14	6	5	31	24	under 5	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	4	...	...	24	41
								5 upwards	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	5	18	10	2	27	66
								under 5	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	9	...	...	6	...	...	30	48
RADCLIFFE HALL, WARD.	107	36	12	5	5	26	23	5 upwards	1	...	...	...	2	...	2	2	...	9	10	9	1	25	59
								under 5	3	1	2	...	...	...	17	...	...	9	...	...	32	64	
RADCLIFFE BRIDGE WARD.	139	42	22	5	6	36	28	5 upwards	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	2	...	5	20	8	1	37	75
								under 5	1	...	1	...	...	...	5	...	...	6	...	...	...	17	30
STAND LANE WARD.	75	20	10	0	2	24	19	5 upwards	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	12	6	1	20	45
								under 5	5	1	4	...	...	...	43	...	...	25	...	...	103	183	
TOTALS.....	428	125	58	16	18	117	94	5 upwards	2	...	...	...	5	...	7	2	22	5	33	5	109	245	

